



President
Office of Competition
and Consumer Protection
Małgorzata Krasnodębska-Tomkiel



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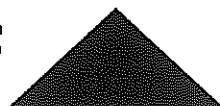
Mr. Hassan Qaqaya
Head of the Competition and Consumer
Policies Branch
Division of International Trade in Goods,
Services and Commodities
United Nations Conference on Trade and
Development

Dear Mr. Qaqaya,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and support the initiative aimed at marking 5th December as the *World Competition Day*. This global event may prove a useful tool for shaping competition policy in line with fast-moving market trends as well as seeking solutions to common competition concerns, and perfectly complement the European Competition Day held twice a year by the Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.

The topic you selected for this year's summit *Adverse Impact of Cartels on the Poor*, will certainly increase global awareness of competition policy and enforcement in the aspect of poverty - a crucial social problem affecting all societies. Furthermore, on this very day, in the year 1980 took place the adoption of the UN Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, which emphasises the significance of competition law to developing countries.

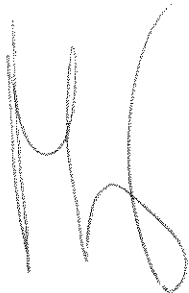
Competition may have a significant impact on poverty reduction. This is especially true when we take into account the fact that approximately 45% of the world population live in poverty. Competition policy can solve this problem twofold - firstly, facing the challenges voiced by consumers, and secondly - from the perspective of mainly small and medium-sized businesses working as employment-providing entities. Fair competition gives opportunity to establish new companies, expand the existing ones and make them thriving so as to affect the employment rate. Furthermore, it is essential to prevent large



businesses from abusing their dominant position, forming cartels, bid rigging and applying prohibited practices. These issues, not approached cautiously, may result in a significant restriction of competition and entail wide-spread economic loss. It is worth noting that in many cases the efficient enforcement of fair competition still constitutes a real challenge.

For this reason competition authorities and international organizations should take concerns of competition law into limelight and build a forum for exchange of their experiences in order to work out common solutions in antitrust policy. Having the above in mind, please let me once again thank you for introducing this initiative and I wish you great success.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long tail, positioned below the closing text.